

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figures 1 and 16-18 as discussed below. Corrected formal drawings of these figures are attached.

In Figure 1:

Please delete reference numeral “3” (four occurrences) and the lead lines therefrom; and

Please delete reference characters “51a”, “51b”, and “51c” (four occurrences) and the lead lines therefrom.

In Figures 16-18:

Please change reference numeral “100” to --200--;

Please delete reference numeral “82” and the lead line therefrom; and

Please delete reference characters “5b1”, “5b2”, and “5b3”.

REMARKS

Summary

Applicants have amended the title of the invention and Claim 1 to overcome a formal objection and rejection. Therefore, the application is now in allowable form.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 are pending. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4, 6-9 and 11 have been amended for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve their form. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to overcome a substantive rejection thereof. Claim 1 is independent.

Requested Action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection and rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Substitute Specification

Enclosed are clean and marked-up copies of a substitute specification. The substitute specification amends the application to improve the form of the application and to correct minor and typographical errors therein.

Drawing Amendments

Applicants have amended Figures 1 and 16-18 to delete reference characters not discussed in the specification or to correct minor, typographical errors therein. Corrected formal drawings of these figures are enclosed.

Title Objection

The Examiner objects to the title and requests a new title that is clearly indicative of the claimed invention. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Applicants have provided a new title that is even more clearly indicative of the claimed invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claims 2, 3, and 5-10 are merely objected to and not rejected on substantive grounds. In response, Applicants have cancelled Claim 5 and incorporated the features of Claim 5 (minus the typographical error in line 3) into Claim 1, thereby rendering Claim 1 and its dependent claims, Claims 2-4 and 6-11 allowable.

Claim Objection

Claim 5 is objected to because it contains a typographical error in line 3. In response, as noted above, Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering the objection moot.

Substantive Rejection

Claims 1, 4, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 6,470,163 (Minagawa).

Response to Substantive Rejection

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable Claim 5. Therefore, Claim 1 and its dependent claims are now in allowable form.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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